

The State Normal School Situation

Sherman County Observer: Up to a few years ago the editor of the Observer was firmly of the opinion that the state should have all its normal school interests into one large school, and as decreed by the voters at the time it should be located at Monmouth. Since then, as the question has been studied, we have discovered that a large normal school is an impossibility if the best interests of the state at large are to be considered and the most for the expenditure is to be realized.

Oregon should have at least three normal schools. Whether it is time to establish another and at Pendleton, this year is a question which the voters of the state will answer this next election.

We have always been under the impression that one normal school, at least, should be again established in Southern Oregon, and as Ashland has buildings and grounds and a successful record as a normal school center, we favored that locality.

To be successful any locality seeking to have a normal school established in their midst must have a large number of grade pupils attending their local schools and easy means of access to the various county schools.

When attending the Oregon State Editorial association at Medford and Ashland this month we were pleased to note that all the conditions demanded by the federal standard for normal schools could be met by Ashland and Jackson county and then a little more if necessary, although considerable is demanded by this federal standard.

Ashland and Jackson county owe a debt to their fellow citizen, Benj. C. Sheldon, for the gathering of the editorial association at Medford this year.

It was a culmination of two years' effort on the part of Mr. Sheldon and of which we know much. The effort was well worth while and grandly done and nobly seconded by the civic and official bodies of the two cities and county concerned, and as time passes and memory of the meeting grows more vivid that part of Southern Oregon will realize more fully than it possibly does today the debt

it owes to Benj. C. Sheldon when it may come before the state asking for something which is its due. In a case of that kind nothing helps more than a first-hand knowledge broadcast over the state of the ability and will to make good its promises.

Lodge Picnic Tomorrow Evening

The picnic for tomorrow in Lithia park which will take up the greatest table room, will be the big affair staged by the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs.

Varying from the usual picnic hour, this picnic will be held in the evening, the dinner bell being scheduled for 6 o'clock sharp. All the lodge members and their families will be there with well filled baskets. Coffee and cream will be furnished by the lodges free.

Following the affair at the picnic grounds in Lithia park, the assembly will go en masse to the Odd Fellows hall where the evening will be spent with dancing, games and possibly a program.

The Carnation flouring mills near Forest Grove, long idle, are to resume.

Ten per cent discount on all children's shoes from now till commencement of school, at Ashland Trading Co.



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Shoots Hunter Mistaken for Bear

Last Tuesday morning at the Meadows on Cow creek, Fred Atkinson, of Redmond, Ore., was shot in the left arm by Fred Trask, of Myrtle creek, who mistook Atkinson for a bear, says the Glendale News.

Mr. Atkinson and family were camped at the Meadows, and Mr. Atkinson had just left his camp for a hunt. Mr. Trask and two companions then arrived at the camp while hunting, and were told that a man was just ahead of them and they were warned to be careful. They proceeded, and when half a mile further on Trask saw what he thought might be a bear—but it wasn't—it was Atkinson standing on a log and looking for deer. Trask fired three shots rapidly from his high powered rifle and shouted to his companions, "come on fellows I've got a bear."

The first shot ripped an ugly gash along Atkinson's left arm and he quickly jumped behind the log, thus probably saving his life. "No, you haven't got a bear!" he shouted back at Trask, who had fired from a distance of about 50 or 60 yards.

Trask and his companions then came up and assisted the injured man to camp. Atkinson was brought to Glendale for treatment and he and his family returned home Wednesday via Crater Lake. He states that there are lots of deer on the head of Cow creek—also lots of hunters with big rifles.

Trask, stating that he had enough hunting, returned to Myrtle Creek with his friends.

The Bandon, Ore., Beach creamery is under new management and doing a rushing business.

After fourteen years' talk, machinery is actually going into the potash lakes at Bend.

The Oregon Humane Society has established a retreat for sick and disabled horses near Portland.

Burn factory blocks for early fall, it pays, Carson-Fowler Lumber Co.

Million Dollars For Forest Roads

Secretary Houston has just announced the plan to be pursued in spending the ten million dollars appropriated by the federal aid road act for the construction and maintenance of roads and trails within or partly within national forests, and has tentatively allotted among the various national forest states the million dollars which is expendable this fiscal year.

The tentative allotments to the principal national forest states are as follows:

Alaska, \$46,280; Arizona, \$59,795; Arkansas \$11,294; California, \$140,763; Colorado, \$62,335; Idaho, \$108,010; Montana, \$89,901; Nevada, \$19,195; New Mexico, \$42,622; Oregon, \$127,794; South Dakota, \$8,115; Utah, \$40,982; Washington, \$91,739; Wyoming, \$40,566.

In addition, a total of \$9,552 has been tentatively assigned to Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and Oklahoma, while the eastern states, Maine, New Hampshire, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia, in which the government is purchasing lands for national forests, have been allotted \$21,057.

"In general," said Secretary Houston, "the states and counties will be required to furnish co-operation in an amount at least equal to 50 per cent of the estimated cost of the surveys and construction. However, upon a satisfactory showing by the applicant state or county that such proportion of co-operation is inequitable, it may be altered and the ratio of co-operation fixed upon a basis equitable to both the state or county and the United States."

The method followed in apportioning the money was explained by Secretary Houston as follows:

Ten per cent of the amount available each year will be withheld as a contingent fund. One-half of the remainder will be allotted to the states in amounts which will be based on the area of national forest lands in each state. The other half will be apportioned on a basis of estimated value of timber and forage resources which the forests contain. Amounts apportioned but unexpended within three years, and any balance of the contingent fund which remains unapportioned at the end of each year, will be reapportioned on the same basis as the original allotments.

The two groups of states to which lump sums are allotted are, it was explained, to be considered as single units of apportionment. Apportionments now to be made are for the current fiscal year only.

Thereafter new apportionments will be made, giving consideration to the number and character of applications made by the state and county officials for expenditures on specific projects. These applications must be filed with the district foresters in the seven national forest districts on or before January 1 of each year, for the fiscal year beginning the following July 1.

The determination of the projects upon which funds will be expended during the current fiscal year will be made on the basis of applications which must be filed with the district foresters on or before October 1, 1916. Each application must contain a statement of the public needs to be served by the proposed road and the manner and extent to which it would aid in the development of the resources upon which communities within or adjacent to the general location of the proposed road and its estimated cost.

As already stated, in general states and counties must be prepared to furnish co-operation equal to at least 50 per cent of the estimated cost of surveys and construction.

This co-operation may be in the form of money, labor and materials, or the construction of roads. Where other factors are equal, the approval of a project may be determined upon the relative amount of co-operation offered. Many applications have, it is stated, already been received for expenditures upon specific projects.

Hughes Has Human Side

Charles E. Hughes, republican nominee for President, State Chairman Charles L. McNary, and Walter L. Tooe, Jr., of Polk county, stood at Crown Point on the Columbia highway, absorbed in the beauty and grandeur of the scene. The silence was broken by Mr. Tooe, who said: "Isn't it wonderful, Charley?"

Mr. Hughes spoke up quickly, "It is, indeed, wonderful."

Mr. Tooe hastened to explain that he didn't intend to get gay, that his remark was intended for Charley McNary. But the significant feature of the incident, of course, was Mr. Hughes' acceptance of the familiar salutation from a comparative stranger, as a matter of course. The iceberg bubble is "busted."

When Mr. and Mrs. Hughes stepped from the train at the Union depot in Portland, a camera man asked them to please stand a little closer together. "Gladly," said Mr. Hughes, stepping up to his wife. So it came to pass that when the picture appeared in the papers both of the distinguished visitors were a broad grin.

The sum of \$20,000 is to be expended in three years promoting Oregon dairy industry.

Seven carloads of cattle have been shipped from Eugene to California sugar beet feeding stations.

Willamette shipyards at Portland adds 50x500 boiler shop.

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Strahorn R. R. Will Tap Soda Lakes

Klamath Falls Herald: H. L. Emerson, engineer of the American Soda Products company, estimates that they will have a total of one million tons of soda for shipment over the new Strahorn railroad, when this road is built to connect with Alkali lake beyond Paisley. Mr. Emerson has been consulting with Mr. Strahorn for several days about the building of the road. He was accompanied by John D. Spreckles, Jr., president, and F. L. Young, manager of the company.

Now that there is a prospect of railroad connection, the soda company is planning on the extensive development of their property and it is asserted by their engineer that they will be able to ship 100 tons a day. This will probably all be shipped by Klamath Falls if construction of the road is begun from this end as now planned. It will also mean a vast expenditure of money in the development of the deposits.

Sequestered in a vast region, miles from civilization and settlement in Lake county, there lies a dry lake bottom, known as Alkali lake, around which there is not enough trees and shrubbery to cast a shade or feed a jackrabbit. In this valley there is found a deposit whose value no man has been able to dispute.

It lies visible to the eye, and to a layman would appear but a vast layer of alkali. The earliest settlers in Lake county thought it alkali, and named the body of mud Alkali lake.

Alkali lake is about 65 miles north of Lakeview and about 45 miles northeast of Paisley. The hills around it are barren, but the deposit, it is said, has untold value when refined and brought to market. To bring the deposit to the seaboard is the plan on foot by the American Soda Products company of San Francisco of which John D. Spreckles, Jr., is president.

About 14 years ago F. L. Young of Paisley went out to the deposit of so-called alkali. At first it did not look promising as a future hole in which to invest money and spend his time in experimenting, but shortly he got a few men together and the Oregon Borax company was organized, the opinion of these men at the time being that the deposit was valuable for its borax.

Little of anything was done by the Oregon Borax company in development, and not until a short time ago was Mr. Young able to interest John D. Spreckles of San Francisco to the extent that he made a trip to Alkali lake and looked it over for future development.

Mr. Spreckles, it is said, did not display a great deal of enthusiasm in the project until he got some chemists to work, who, after elaborate experimentation proclaimed it one of the most remarkable deposits anywhere to be found in the United States. It is not for its borax that the deposit is valuable, the chemists pronounced, but for its soda ash properties, a valuable constituent in the manufacture of soaps and paper, or any other product in which soda enters as a necessary factor.

The lake and adjoining potholes cover an area of approximately 5700 acres. In the lake there are, it is estimated, approximately 10,000 potholes containing the soda ash, the diameters of which vary from 25 to 100 feet.

Experiments have shown that as soon as the soda ash is removed from

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the potholes they fill again with the same substance of equal purity, which fact leads the experts to believe that the supply is inexhaustible. The value of this product when refined varies upwards to \$70 per ton. Its value in dollars cannot, say experts, be estimated.

The company is already operating on a small scale, and the product is being hauled to Bend and Lakeview, by trucks for shipment.

Knights and Ladies To Picnic Thursday

Knights and ladies will hold forth all day Thursday in Lithia park when the Woman's Benefit association of the Macabees will join with the Sir Knights of Macabees and their families in an all-day picnic.

The men will be expected to show up at dinner time and again in the evening and, of course, all those who can get away from worries of work will spend the entire day in the park. The women and the kiddies will be there all day at any rate.

Everyone is to bring a basket lunch, coffee and cream being furnished by the lodge. All visiting knights or ladies and their families are urged to join in the affair.

The Utah-Idaho Sugar Company has raised the price for sugar beets at Grants Pass.

A Farmers' Union elevator and grain cleaning plant, to cost \$26,000, will be built at Pendleton.

The cannery at Junction, Ore., will add a prune-drying plant.

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